THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Kakrapar Atomic Power Project

84. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of the Unit 2 of the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project since its commercial operations began;

(b) what are the indicators of its performance and how do they compare with other atomic power projects; and

(c) what steps are being taken to enhance the efficiency of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The Performance of a power plant is primarily indicated by the quantum of electricity generated as reflected in the capacity factor. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station-2 which commenced commercial operation on 1st September, 1995 has generated 1696 million units of electricity upto 31.10.96 thereby achieving a capacity factor of 75% and availability factor of 87%. Judged against the fact that the first year of commercial operation of a plant is treated as the stabilisation period when a capacity factor of 50% is prescribed, this is a commendable performance.

(c) Kakrapar Atomic Power Station-2 is the most recently built advanced nuclear power unit in the country. It incorporates most of the recommended system modifications and improvements based on the operational experience and feedback from earlier nuclear power plants. Steps are being taken to sustain and further improve the performance of this station by strengthening of condition monitoring, preventive and predictive maintenance, improving outage management, root cause analysis and corrective actions, intensive training for operation and maintenance works etc.

Improved varieties of Greengram and Groundnut released by B.A.R.C.

85. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has released improved varieties of greengram (Mungbean) and groundnut seeds for cultivation;

(b) if so, what is the improvement over the traditional varieties;

(c) what has been the response of farmers; and

(d) what steps would be taken to popularise these varieties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The improved varieties of mungbean have been found to give yields higher than those of the traditional varieties by 27 (Twenty Seven) to 85 (Eighty Five) per cent and are also comparatively more resistant to powdery mildew disease which otherwise causes considerable loss to these crops. The improved groundnut varieties have been found to give higher yields by 12 (Twelve) to 50 (Fifty) per cent and also produce nuts of larger size which have good export potential.

(c) Response from the farmers has been quite encouraging. Increasingly larger areas are reported to be sown with improved varieties developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

(d) The BARC periodically organises field demonstration trials with these improved varieties and also collaborates with various State Agricultural Universities and Departments for popularising these varieties through the latter's extension agencies.

Kutir Jyoti Programme

86. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kutir Jyoti Programme was launched in 1988-89 through